



Leipzig, Körnerstr. 50 <sup>Fr.</sup>  
Oct. 13. 1906.

Prof. Dr. Ignaz Goldziher,  
Buda-Pest

My dear Prof. :-

Before laying claim to your time and attention let me introduce myself as a student of Professor Macdonald in Hartford, and the John S. Welles Fellow from the Hartford Theol. Seminary for 1906-7, and 1907-8. I have worked with Craig in Michigan, and with Delitzsch and Sachau a little in Berlin, and during the last two years, with Macdonald in Hartford. Some start I have made in Arabic, and a little in Assyrian, Syriac, and Ethiopic, besides Hebrew and North Sem. Epigraphic. I received the present appointment largely through the influence of Prof. Macdonald, and for the purpose of studying what I am afraid I shall not find in any of the German universities; Old Semitic Religions in their larger aspect, drawing material from all Semitic lands, but especially from



Old Arabia. Noone is now lecturing or writing upon the subject, and the work begun by Wellhausen and W. R. Smith seems to have been abandoned. I do not wish to follow any one of the three current ruts: Assyriology, O. T. "Quellenkritik," or Islām; and although well aware of the difficulty of getting at the life of Old Arabia, I have been encouraged by Prof. Macdonald to believe that Mohammedan Literature has not been exhausted for this purpose, and that South Arabia has much to yield.

Prof. Macdonald looked over the whole field of German universities, and finally advised me to come to Leipzig at least temporarily. He would have sent me to Buda-Pest without hesitation, if that had seemed to be at all possible, and that is the matter about which I now wish to consult you.

Would you advise me to come to Buda-Pest for the next semester, and would you be willing to direct my work in the study of Old Arabia along the lines suggested, or with such modifications as you might



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suggest? Do you think that I could do anything with Damiri's حية الجوان or with Hamdani or Tabari's Commentary, or with the Traditions?

The accomplishment of this work is of course of first importance to me, but I should wish also at the end of the third semester with you, to come up for my Dr. phil. Would that be possible?

Finally, to touch upon the chief difficulty, I know no Hungarian, and although I should not miss the opportunity of picking it up while there, I could not hope to let my other work wait upon my acquisition of that language, which is very difficult, I am told. In other words, could my work be done in German exclusively?

Hoping that your regard for your disciple in Hartford, may lead you to assist one who is his disciple and admirer, I remain,

Yours Respectfully

Wm. H. Worrell